

12 -

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed July 25, 2005. Claims 1-36 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-3, 16, 17, 20, 25, 26, 29-31 and 34 are rejected and Claims 4-15, 18, 19, 21-24, 27, 28, 32, 33, 35 and 36 are objected to in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 18-20, 22, 23, 27-29, 33, 34, and 36 have been amended, and Claims 2, 4, 21, 30-32, and 35 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action of all pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that Claims 4-15, 18-19, 21-24, 27-28, 32-33 and 35-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4, 8, 18, 19, 21, 27, 28, 32, and 35 have been rewritten in independent form as Claims 1, 8, 18, 19, 20, 27, 28, 30 and 35, respectively, and are therefore allowable, as are the claims depending therefrom. Favorable action is requested.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 20, 29-31 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,292,140 to Osterman ("*Osterman*"), and Claims 16-17 and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by *Osterman*.

The rewriting of allowable Claims 4, 8, 18, 19, 21, 27, 28, 32, and 35 in independent form has rendered moot the above rejections because all other remaining claims depend from one of these allowable claims. Favorable action is requested.

13 -

CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other apparent reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims.

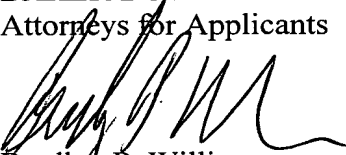
If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present Application may be advanced in any way by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 214-953-6447.

Applicants hereby take an Extension of Time for responding to the Examiner's Office Action for one (1) month.

A check in the amount of **\$1,000.00** is enclosed to satisfy excess claims fees due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Extension of Time Fee of \$120.00 and any other required fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants



Bradley P. Williams
Reg. No. 40, 227

Date: November 23, 2005

Customer Number: **45,507**